

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

It is a very dangerous situation when propaganda is presented as unbiased news, especially during campaign time. This reminds me of oppressive police states. Free and unbiased news is an essential ingredient to a genuine democracy. Media consolidation decreases the likelihood of free and unbiased news, because broadcasts will instead serve the interests of the parent company, and divergent voices will be silenced.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.